

# Outreach to a Diverse Student Population: APHIS Scientists, Computer Specialists and Technology Professionals in A Bilingual Elementary School

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June 9, 2005



# Partnership in Education (PIE)

- 15 years
- Public schools  
“adopted” via MOU
- Employee release time  
for volunteer work
- Supervisor permission  
required
- Agency and School  
screening



**Irish Elementary School  
Fort Collins, Colorado**

# Other Fort Collins Area PIE Schools



Cache La Poudre Elementary



Livermore Elementary



Wellington Junior High

# Irish Elementary School



**Irish children on  
the playground**

- 70% Latino (mostly Mexican or Mexican-American)
- 85% reduced or free lunch
- New program “Tuesday Morning Enrichment”

# Tuesday Morning Enrichment

- Community volunteers create content
- Offered to all students
- Voluntary participation
- Student choice
- Frees professional staff for own development
- Offers programs poor families can't afford or don't have time to participate in



**Parent Volunteers**

# Visiting Scientists and Computer Professionals: one of many choices



**Dance; Cooking; Service Projects; Mexican Cultural Heritage; Knitting Club; Soccer; Origami/Tai Chi; Homework and Reading Club; Indoor Sports; Girl Scouts; Who and What (about famous people and interesting animals); ABC's in Art; Book Club; Islands of the World; Murals of the Rainforest; Violin lessons and Scrap booking.**



# H.E.L.L.O. Program

**H**omework  
**E**xtension and  
**L**earning  
**L**ab  
**O**pportunity



# H.E.L.L.O. Program Activities

- extra hours (3 to 4:30 PM) of supported instruction as well as access to media and technology center
- academic focus: homework, drill and practice, reading strategies, math, written language, one-on-one, Spanish



**Carol Furcolow, Chemist  
NWRC Volunteer  
in HELLO**



# Advantages to Agency & Presenters

- Can fit into busy schedules
- Get paid time off to do it
- Assistance provided
- Recognition given by APHIS PIE program and the school
- Outreach to populations who don't come in contact with programs (positive PR)
- It's fun!



# Student Feedback: Highly positive



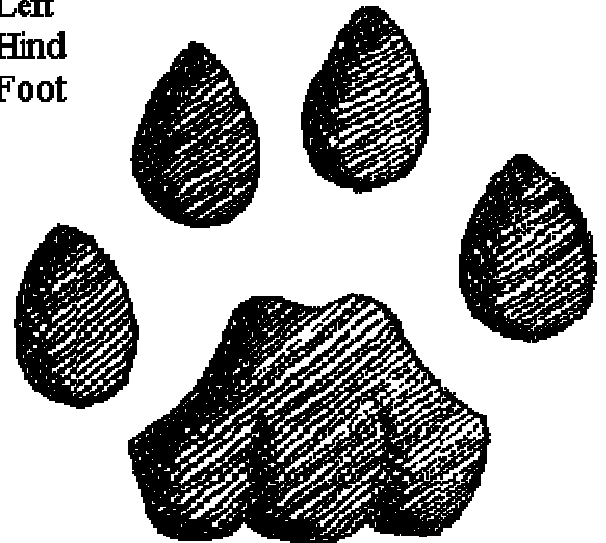
On a five point scale from poor to excellent, ten gave the program an overall rating of Excellent (5) but two of them also marked Fair (2). (I averaged them to count as 3.5 each.) One ranked the program Very Good (4) and the other one Good (3). The overall average score was 4.5, which rates between Very Good and Excellent.

# Reasons Students Gave for Liking a Presentation

- “Because I liked all of them.”
- “Because I liked it all.”
- “Because it was fun.”
- “Because it was skwooshy.”
- “Because I got to take them home.”
- “I like tracks.”
- “Because I got a real footprint to take home.”
- “I love animals.”
- “Because they were different—interesting”
- “I like the sounds.”
- “Because I like noise.”

*One response was illegible.*

Left  
Hind  
Foot



# Staff Comments

The paraprofessional staff member, when interviewed gave detailed comments on the age appropriateness of each session. Her responses seemed to correlate well to the students evaluations of what they liked and didn't like.



Irish Elementary Staff  
Personal la escuela Irish

# Principal's Comments



The principal stated that, overall, there was an **positive impact** on students about scientific topics and scientists. She said “I have heard from some staff and students about the sessions and **they loved them!**” She said that the best thing about the program was that they were “**real scientists with real concepts and hands on** [activities]”. She also said “Keep coming!”

# Staff Comments

The volunteer coordinator said “I want more women to talk with our girls. I think the presentations were awesome!” In addition, she said that she liked best the fact that “different presenters showed our kids a variety of careers.” She also said “Come back and visit us PLEASE. We really enjoyed it.”



# Presenter Comments



Some NWRC Presenters

Most of them liked the experience and said so verbally. One of them said, “The program is good and the kids enjoyed it.”

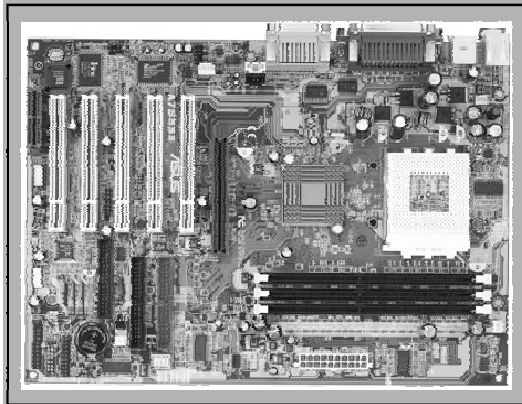


# Presenters Comments



PPD's Deb Millis and Kathy Schrack gave an interesting session on planning which included bean bags—a big hit!

# Presenters Comments



ITD's Vicky Burris showed the children the insides of a computer. They remembered it well.

# Who were the 23 presenters?

**Wildlife Services Total = 10**

**National Wildlife Research Center 8**

**Western Regional Office 1**

**Operational Support Staff**

**MIS Center 1**

**Veterinary Services Total = 5**

**National Animal Health Programs 2**

**Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health 3**

**Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services Total = 4**

**Information Technology Division**

**Technology Resources Management 3**

**Customer Services Branch 1**

**Policy and Program Development Total = 2**

**Business Practices Team 2**

**Non-APHIS Total = 2**

# Presenter Comments

Some expressed reservations about logistics, parking, and environment. “I had a hard time getting started. Help [provided] was mostly with the kids themselves, but no help with moving or set up.” One expressed a concern regarding classroom management. “Kids were very talkative, sometimes hard to make points. Overall, though, pretty good.” Presenters were pleased with “the kids’ enthusiasm” and their response to the program



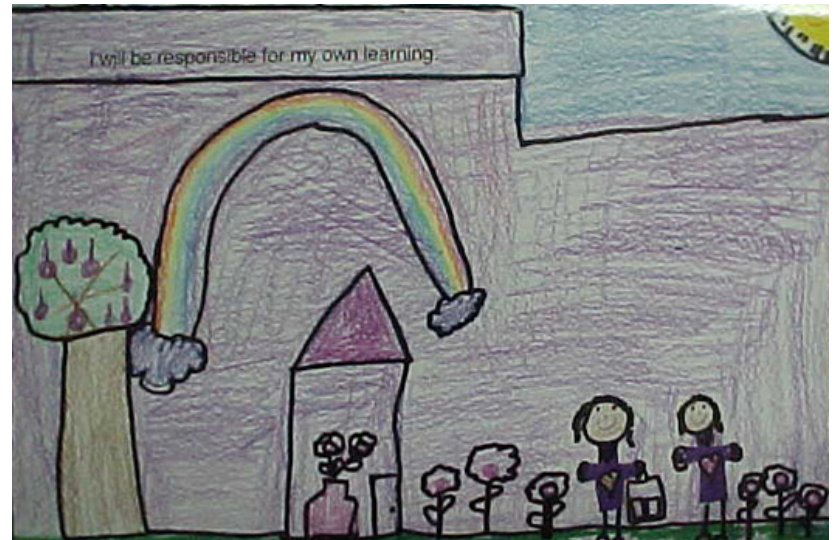
# Overall Outcome



The school wants the program to continue and has been supportive of the on-going involvement of APHIS employees with the children.

# Some Lessons Learned

- The coordination of this type of activity requires a lot of patience.
- This type of program is invaluable in any elementary school, especially one with the type of population this school has.



**I will take responsibility for my learning.  
Yo seré responsable por mi  
propio aprendizaje.**

# Some Lessons Learned



**Fifth Grade Art Work**

- Recruitment of students into these experiences needs to be targeted on specific groups of students (i.e. females) to broaden its appeal.
- The use of props, giveaways and prizes engages and involves the children.